

*Library*

HEALTH  
E 29 JUN 55  
G.R. 55

**TORRINGTON  
RURAL DISTRICT  
1954.**

**REPORTS**

OF THE

**MEDICAL OFFICER OF HEALTH  
AND SANITARY SURVEYOR**

FOR THE YEAR ENDING  
31ST DECEMBER, 1954.

GREAT TORRINGTON:

Printed by COPP & SON, "Osborne Printing Works,"

4, Well Street.

# STAFF.

---

## PART TIME OFFICERS:

Medical Officer of Health—

DR. E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.

Clerk—MRS. V. DARCH.

## WHOLE TIME OFFICER:

Sanitary Inspector and Building Surveyor—

F. G. GANE, M.R.S.I., M.S.I.A.

HEALTH DEPARTMENT,  
COUNCIL CHAMBERS,  
TORRINGTON.

*To the Chairman and Members of the Torrington  
Rural District Council.*

GENTLEMEN,

We have pleasure in presenting our ANNUAL  
REPORTS for the year ended 31st December, 1954.

We are, Gentlemen,

Yours faithfully,

**E. H. WALKER, M.B., B.S., M.R.C.S., L.R.C.P.,**

Medical Officer of Health.

**F. G. GANE, M.R.San.I., M.S.I.A.,**

Sanitary Inspector & Building Surveyor.

# Torrington Rural District.

✻ 1954 ✻

---

---

## General Statistics.

Area (Acres)...	...	...	...	...	...	...	79,825
Population (R.G.)	...	...	...	...	...	...	7,280
Number of Inhabited Houses	...	...	...	...	...	...	2,612
Rateable Value	...	...	...	...	...	...	£22,667
Sum realised by a Penny Rate	...	...	...	...	...	...	£89 11s. 4d.

---

---

## Extracts from Vital Statistics of the Year.

Live Births ... .. Male 25, Female 31, Total 56.

Increase of 1 on previous year.

Birth rate per 1000 of estimated Population ... 7'0.

Deaths ... .. Male 28, Female 25, Total 53.

Death Rate per 1,000 of estimated Resident Population 7'2.

---

# Annual Report of Medical Officer of Health.

## General Sanitary Conditions of the District.

### Nursing.

The District is provided with midwives and nurses under the National Health Scheme.

### Hospitals.

The District is accommodated by the hospitals at Torrington, Bideford, Barnstaple and Exeter which are administered by a local Regional Board. These are not nearly large enough for modern conditions.

## **Clinics.**

These work efficiently through the County Council and other authorities.

## **Isolation Hospitals.**

The majority of our patients are received by the Bideford Isolation Hospital. Special facilities are made for smallpox, etc.

Tuberculosis is admirably looked after by the Barnstaple Clinic.

## **Ambulance Services.**

These are very efficiently worked.

## **Laboratory Services.**

These are available and function well, mostly at Exeter.

## **Maternity Services.**

These are provided by Midwives and Hospitals. Baby clinics are very popular. I suggest that normal cases should be encouraged to use the Home Service available as a larger grant is now made for such cases.

## **Schools.**

Sanitation and water are still not up to standard but are improving at some schools.

T.T. milk is supplied where possible, otherwise Pasteurised or tablets may be issued.

It is possible that "the equal shares for all policy" becomes stupid. Perhaps "bad doers" should have double and the fat ones none for the benefit of all concerned, especially as dinners are now available.

## **Dairies and Cowsheds.**

These are definitely improving.

## **Venereal Disease.**

There is very little, and what there is, is imported from greater wage earning centres. There is an excellent clinic at Barnstaple.



## **Infestation.**

This is very small amongst locals and the school nurses stop it quickly.

## **Housing.**

There are many houses not up to standard. It is hoped that persons in "decaying houses" shall be put into Council houses. Those dilapidated houses could then be reconditioned before being allowed to be "tenanted" again. Repairs of older houses is a major problem. Possibly more smaller Council houses should be built for the old persons and smaller families.

## **Mental Health and Deficiencies.**

The County looks after this very conscientiously, and also the deaf mutes and blind.

## **Water.**

The improvement in supply is increasing. Some villages have got main water and others will do as soon as possible. It is very necessary that new houses should only be built where water is adequate.

## **Drainage.**

This is rather inadequate as a whole, but villages are being provided with main drainage as funds allow.

## **Immunisation against Diphtheria.**

The results are very satisfactory. Immunisation must be kept up to date.

## **Infectious Diseases.**

During the year the following were reported :—

Whooping Cough	13 cases.	Tuberculosis	2 cases.
Scarlet Fever	4 „	Measles	6 „
Pneumonia	7 „	Dysentery	7 „

# Annual Report of Sanitary Inspector.

---

## DETAILS OF INSPECTIONS.

Dwellings inspected under Housing Acts	...	...	16
Dwellings inspected under Public Health Acts	...	...	16
Re-inspections under Housing Acts	...	...	25
Re-inspections under Public Health Acts	...	...	20
Keeping of Animals	..	...	2
Offensive accumulations	...	...	1
Inquiries into cases of Infectious Disease	...	...	4
Number of rooms disinfected	...	...	4
Visits to Factories	...	...	17
„ „ Bakehouses	...	...	4
„ „ Schools	...	...	3
Food Inspections	...	...	75
Visits to Food Preparing Premises	...	...	40
Number of Water Samples	...	...	12
Building Inspections under Bye-laws	...	...	208
Visits to Council Housing Sites	...	...	136
Defective drains	...	...	22
Drains tested	...	...	36
Plans investigated	...	...	87
Petroleum inspections	...	..	14
Dirty houses	...	...	1
Farm Water Supplies	...	...	6
Miscellaneous	..	...	46

# FACTORIES ACT, 1937 and 1948.

1—INSPECTIONS for purposes of provisions as to health (including inspections made by Sanitary Inspectors)

Premises (1)	M/c line No. (2)	Number on Register (3)	Number of			M/c line No. (7)
			Inspections (4)	Written notices (5)	Occupiers prosecuted (6)	
(i) Factories in which Sections 1, 2, 3, 4 and 6 are to be enforced by Local Authorities ...	1	53	26	—	—	1
(ii) Factories not included in (i) to which Section 7 applies						
(a) Subject to the Local Authorities (Transfer of Enforcement Order, 1938†) ... ..	2	—	—	—	—	2
(b) Others... ..	3	—	—	—	—	3
(iii) Other premises under the Act‡ (excluding outworkers' premises) ... ..	4	—	—	—	—	4
TOTAL ... ..		53	26	NIL	NIL	

## 2—CASES IN WHICH DEFECTS WERE FOUND

Particulars	M/c line No.	Number of cases in which defects were found			Number of cases in which prosecutions were	M/c line No.
		Found	Remedied	Referred To H.M. Inspector By H.M. Inspector		



Overcrowding (S.2)	...	...	...	6	...	...	...	...	6
Unreasonable temperature (S.3)	...	...	...	7	...	...	...	...	7
Inadequate ventilation (S.4)	...	...	...	8	...	...	...	...	8
Ineffective drainage of floors (S.6)	...	...	...	9	...	...	...	...	9
Sanitary Conveniences (S.7)	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...	...
(a) Insufficient	...	...	...	10	1	1	...	...	10
(b) Unsuitable or defective	...	...	...	11	1	1	...	...	11
(c) Not separate for sexes	...	...	...	12	...	...	...	...	12
Other offences (not including offences relating to Homework)	...	...	...	13	...	...	...	...	13
TOTAL	...	...	...	...	3	3	NIL	NIL	NIL

(OUTWORK—Sections 110 and 111).

Nature of Work	M/c line No.	Section 110			Section 111			M/c line No.
		No. of out-workers in August list required by Sect. 110 (1) (c) (3)	No. of cases of default in sending lists to the Council (4)	No. of prosecutions for failure to supply lists (5)	No. of instances of work in unwholesome premises (6)	Notices served (7)	Prosecutions (8)	
(1)	(2)							(9)
Wearing { Making, etc.	13	67	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	NIL	13
apparel { Cleaning and	14	...	...	...	...	...	...	14
{ . washing		...	...	...	...	...	...	

## HOUSING.

### 1. Inspection of Dwelling-houses during the year:

(1) (a)	Total number of dwelling-houses inspected for housing defects (under Public Health or Housing Acts)	...	...	...	32
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				45
(2) (a)	Number of dwelling-houses (included under sub-head (1) above) which were inspected and recorded under the Housing Consolidated Regulations, 1925	...	...	...	16
(b)	Number of inspections made for the purpose				20
(3)	Number of dwelling-houses found to be in a state so dangerous or injurious to health as to be unfit for human habitation	...	...		—
(4)	Number of dwelling-houses (exclusive of those referred to under the preceding sub-head found not to be in all respects reasonably fit for human habitation	...	...	...	32

### 2. Remedy of Defects during the year without service of formal Notices :—

Number of defective dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority or their Officers	...	...	16
---	-----	-----	----

### 3. Action under Statutory Powers during the year:

#### A. Proceedings under Sections 17, 18 and 23 of the Housing Act, 1930.

NIL.

#### B. Proceedings under Public Health Acts.:—

Number of dwelling-houses rendered fit in consequence of informal action by the Local Authority	...	...	...	...	3
---	-----	-----	-----	-----	---

#### C. Proceedings under Sections 19 and 21 of the Housing Act, 1930.

NIL.

#### D. Proceedings under Section 20 of the Housing Act, 1930

NIL.

## Improvements carried out and nuisances abated:—

<i>External</i>						<i>No. of Premises.</i>
Walls repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	24
Roofs repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	14
Guttering repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Downspouts repaired	...	...	...	...	...	10
Chimneys repaired ..	...	...	...	...	...	9
Water supply laid on into houses	...	...	...	...	...	26
New pumps provided ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
Wells Cleansed	...	...	...	...	...	3
Well steinings repaired	...	...	...	...	...	1
New lengths drain laid	...	...	...	...	...	22
Defective drains repaired	...	...	...	...	...	11
New inspection chambers	...	...	...	...	...	14
Septic tanks repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	2
New septic tanks	...	...	...	...	...	16
New gullies ...	...	...	...	...	...	10
New W.C.'s ...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Water supply laid on to W.C.'s	...	...	...	...	...	20
W.C. cisterns renewed	...	...	...	...	...	3
New washing accommodation...	...	...	...	...	...	8
Outbuildings repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	4
<i>Internal</i>						
Walls replastered	...	...	...	...	...	16
Ceilings replastered	...	...	...	...	...	16
Windows repaired	...	...	...	...	...	12
Doors repaired...	...	...	...	...	...	15
Floors repaired	...	...	...	...	...	15
Cooking appliances repaired or renewed	...	...	...	...	...	16
New sinks ...	...	...	...	...	...	14
New sculleries ...	...	...	...	...	...	9
Baths installed...	...	...	...	...	...	18
Food storage improved	...	...	...	...	...	14
Stairs repaired ...	...	...	...	...	...	13
Hot water systems fixed	...	...	...	...	...	18

## New Housing Accommodation.

Number of new houses erected by local authority	...	28
„ „ new houses erected by private enterprise...	...	16

## COUNCIL HOUSING PROGRAMME.

28 houses were completed during the year and at the end of the period under review 6 were under construction. The Council's allocation for 1955 is only 12 traditional houses. Six of these are to be built at Winkleigh, two at Shebbear, two at Merton and two at Sheepwash.

## SEWAGE DISPOSAL.

A sewerage and sewage disposal scheme for Shebbear village was completed and put into operation during the year. Schemes were also commenced for Sheepwash village and Taddiport and by the end of the year they were nearing completion. Schemes have been prepared for St. Giles, Kingscott and Roborough villages and it is hoped to commence work on them during 1955. The Council proposes to submit schemes for Petrockstowe and Merton during 1955. The works at Winkleigh continue to function satisfactorily and effluent samples taken by the Devon River Board have given good results.

## WATER SUPPLIES.

During the year the mains were extended from Heanton to Shebbear and from Hembury Gate to Petrockstowe and Merton. Extensions are now in progress to Dolton and Beaford, and from Little Torrington to Frithelstock. The number of new connections made during the year were :—

101 — Domestic.  
32 — Trade.

The total number of premises now connected to the main is : 494

## RODENT DESTRUCTION.

In conjunction with Torrington Borough Council the Council employs a full time Operator.

The following work in the Torrington Rural District was carried out during the year :—

Number of Survey calls made	...	...	...	1679
Number of private premises treated	...	...	...	341
Number of business premises treated	...	...	...	51

The total number of bodies found was 603.

## OFFENSIVE TRADES.

There are no offensive trades in this district.

## INSPECTION AND SUPERVISION OF FOOD.

### Slaughtering.

The Ministry of Food handed back the slaughtering of animals to the Meat Trade in July. The Council licensed two existing slaughterhouses at Dolton and High Bickington after certain improvements had been carried out and agreed to issue a licence to a third at High Bickington subject to certain conditions. These conditions have not yet been fulfilled. Two other applications were refused. Since July slaughtering has been carried out regularly at these two slaughterhouses and meat inspection has been done as frequently as possible.



The following Table A shows the number of animals killed and inspected and the percentage of carcasses affected with :—

- (1) All diseases except Tuberculosis.
- (2) Tuberculosis only.

Table B gives the weight of meat condemned and the cause of condemnation.

Table C shows the amount of other foodstuffs condemned.

**TABLE A.**

**Carcases Inspected and Condemned.**

	Cattle excluding Cows	Cows	Calves	Sheep and Lambs	Pigs
Number killed ... ..	63	1	—	203	33
Number inspected ... ..	55	1	—	138	30
<b>All Diseases except Tuberculosis</b>					
Whole Carcases con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	3	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	7	—	—	15	—
Percentage of the number inspected affected with diseases other than Tuberculosis ... ..	12.1	—	—	13.0	—
<b>Tuberculosis only</b>					
Whole Carcases con- demned ... ..	—	—	—	—	—
Carcases of which some part or organ was con- demned ... ..	5	1	—	—	1
Percentage of the number inspected affected with Tuberculosis ... ..	9.1	100.0	—	—	3.3



**TABLE B.****Summary of Meat condemnations with cause and weight.**

Food Condemned	Cause	Weight in lbs.
2 Beasts' Heads ... ..	Tuberculosis	60
6 Beasts' Lungs ... ..	Tuberculosis	48
1 Pig's Head ... ..	Tuberculosis	10
1 Beast's Lungs ... ..	Abscesses	8
Portions of 5 Beasts' Livers ...	Distomatosis	27
14 Sheep's Livers ... ..	Distomatosis	18
1 Ewe ... ..	Dropsy	42
1 Ewe ... ..	Septicæmia	66
1 Lamb ... ..	Emaciation	16
Portion of Beef Carcase ... ..	Bone Taint	76
Portion of Beef Carcase ... ..	Bone Taint	34
Portion of Mutton ... ..	Bruised	3
Total Weight ... ..		408 lbs.

**TABLE C.****Other Foodstuffs.**

Food Condemned	Cause	Weight in lbs. ozs.
5 Tins Dutch Luncheon Meat ...	Tins blown and decomposition	20 lbs.

**Butchers' Shops.**

The six Butchers' Shops in the district are kept in a satisfactory condition.

**Food Shops.**

Conditions in the 59 food premises in the district are satisfactory.

**Registered Food Preparation Premises.**

No ice-cream is manufactured in the district. 12 licences to sell ice-cream have been issued. In each case factory pre-packed ice-cream is sold.

## MILK AND DAIRIES ACTS AND ORDERS.

There are no designated milk bottling establishments in the district, and all retailers are also producers. Milk sampling is, therefore, carried out by the Ministry of Agriculture.

## PETROLEUM LICENCES.

28 petroleum storage licences were issued during the year.

## SLAUGHTERING LICENCES.

36 licences were issued during the year.

## PLANS.

87 plans were submitted during the year, 84 were approved and 3 disapproved.

All plans are considered by the Council's Planning Committee before submission to the Divisional Planning Committee.

I attended monthly meetings of the Divisional Planning Committee of the Devon County Council.



